

Pakistan Affairs Mock-2

Q. 8 Answer

Introduction:

There has always been various contours that shape the interplay between politics and economy in Pakistan. These Silhouettes Pakistan's political economy include elite capture and rent-seeking, civil-military imbalance, Aid dependence and external influences, undocumented economy and informality, political instability and policy discontinuity, crony capitalism, weak institutions and governance etc. Various approach can lead to egalitarian society in Pakistan. These can be economic reforms, inclusive education, Gender equality measures, strengthening democratic institutions and balancing civil-military relations.

The Silhouettes of Political Economy in Pakistan:

1- Elite-Capture and rent-Seeking:

The economic policies of Pakistan are politicized and are highly influenced by elite, ~~fueled~~ and military. The public policy then leads to favoritism ~~over~~ ^{on} cost of public interest.

2- Civil-Military Imbalance:

There is a huge difference in powers of civil government and military in Pakistan. Military wields influence on economic reforms, lands allocations and defense spending. Civil government is comparatively weak to have any say in this.

3- Aid Dependence and External Influence:

Pakistan's economy is heavily dependent on aid from IMF, WB, and Bilateral Chanells. Political government is also not

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.

interested in any structural reforms in economic policies as policies are driven by conditions of IMF, and WB.

4. Undocumented Economy and Informality:

Pakistan's economy is mostly undocumented and this was said by report of World Bank. Almost 60% of GDP is informal. This leads to reduced tax collection and less economic resources collection by FBR.

5. Political Instability and Policy discontinuity:

Political instability in Pakistan leads to frequent changes in economic policies also. Such changes are not good for economic stability as regime change also results in policy reversals.

6. Crony Capitalism:

Capitalism is

also deep rooted in the country, political persons are influenced by businessmen lobbies leading to loopholes and weak economic structure.

7. Weak institutions and Governance:

Weak economic institutions like FBR and NAB, and poor governance are responsible for weak political economy in Pakistan.

Approaches to develop an egalitarian society in Pakistan:

1- Economic Reforms:

Economic reforms for economic sustainability are needed and these reforms must be structural policy reforms to increase productivity and reduce external help.

2. Inclusive Education:

Inclusive

education is necessary for egalitarian society to develop.

Inclusive education means ensure free, compulsory and quality education. Article 25-A of Pakistan's constitution ensures free and compulsory education to those aged between 5 to 16 years.

There must be ensuring of girls education and also a focus on marginalized communities. Curriculum reforms are needed to inculcate equity and, empathy and tolerance.

3. Gender Equality Measures:-

3.1 Legal protection:

There must be clear laws on harassment, inheritance and equality on workplace.

3.2 Economic Inclusion:

Women should be given training, skills and

Education for their economic inclusion.

3.3 Representation:

women representation and Policy making is also needed for egalitarian Society.

4. Strengthening Democratic institutions:

For an egalitarian Society democratic institutions must be strengthened to ensure rule of law, social justice and democracy.

5. Balancing Civil-Military Relations:

There is a strong need of balance in civil-military relations. For an egalitarian Society to develop civil and military institutions of Pakistan are needed to be strengthened and there must be

rule of law to ensure that each and every institution works in its constitutionally defined boundaries.

Conclusion:

In Pakistan various features shape the interplay between politics and economy. These are elite-captures, rent seeking, civil-military imbalance, aid dependence and external influence, informal economy, weak institutions, political instability and capitalism. Various approaches can help to achieve an egalitarian society development in Pakistan.

These approaches include economic reforms, inclusive education, gender equality measures, balancing civil-military relation and strengthening democratic institutions.

Q no 4 (Answer)

Introduction:

Due to changing security dynamic for Pakistan, Pakistan's role in the region has become strategic. ^{And} There are various challenges to national security of Pakistan which include both traditional and non-traditional security challenges. Traditional security challenges include external threats like tensions with India, foreign interferences and proxy threats, insurgency and terrorism etc. while non-traditional security challenges ^{in Pakistan} are economic and political instability, cybersecurity and climate threats, social fragmentation, Public Health and demographic pressure etc.

Challenges to the National Security of Pakistan:

Challenges to national security of Pakistan include both traditional and

non-traditional security threats.

Traditional Security Challenges:

1- External Military threats:

a) Tensions with India:

Due to long standing tensions between Pakistan and India, Kashmir conflict, ^{and} water issues etc there is a strong security challenge from India.

b) Arm race in the region:

There is hostile military posturing and a constant arm race between rival countries in the region.

2. Insurgency and Terrorism:

a) Terrorism:

Terrorism is a great national security challenge for Pakistan. As stated in Global Terrorism Index, Pakistan ranked 2nd in terrorism.

2) Insurgency:

There is a

rise in insurgency in the country posturing a strong national security threat. There is an infiltration and safe heavens across the border.

As per DG-IsPR of Pakistan in 2024 there were highest ever ^{terror} attacks in Pakistan mostly by TTP.

Baloch separatists groups are also in rise in the country.

3. Border Security:

Porous border with Afghanistan has risked Pakistan's security. This has resulted in smuggling, illegal migrations and proxy movements etc.

4. Civil - Military Imbalance:

Pakistan has civil-military imbalance causing a security concern in the country. This concern was highlighted by Ayesha Siddiqua that there is a military

dominance in political and economic policies of Pakistan.

5 Foreign Interferences and Proxy Conflicts:

a) Indian Interference:

Indian

interference: like in Balochistan, funding BLA and other separatist organization is a constant security threat for Pakistan. Indian spy Kulbushan Jadev confessed that Indian RAW is involved in Balochistan insurgency.

b) Proxy threats:

Due to Iran-Saudi adversary there are a lot of proxy and non-state actors in the region that are a challenge for Pakistan's security. This was stated in International Crisis group report.

Non-Traditional Security threats:

1. Economic Instability

a) Debt crisis:

There is inflation, low growth and unemployment in Pakistan largely due to debt crisis. SBP Report shows that there was 23% inflation in Pakistan.

2) Dependence on Foreign Aid:

Pakistan's economy is overly dependent on foreign aid like on IMF and WB.

This economic insecurity is an internal threat to the national security of Pakistan.

b) Political Instability:

a) weak institutions

The democratic institutions are weak because of political instability.

b) Political Polarization: There is a rise in political polarization in the country.

c) Poor Governance; Economist

intelligence unit Democracy
Index observed weak democratic
processes in Pakistan

This political instability with
frequent government changes
is a strong ^{internal} challenge to
the national security of
Pakistan.

3. cybersecurity threats:

Among other
internal security threats cybersecurity
^{threats} are also significant in Pakistan.

Attempts to hack important
infrastructure and misinfor-
mation campaigns are

common in country. FIA
cybercrime wing stated that
there were attempts made
to hack FBR and NADRA.

4. Climate threats:

a) Floods:

floods ^{occur} ~~are~~

because of climate change
and this climate threat
was witnessed at large

when 2022 flood in Pakistan displaced or affected 33m people as per report of world Bank.

b) water scarcity and Insecurity.

Scarcity or insecurity due to less water storage capacity despite being a most vulnerable country to climate change. Global Climate Risk Index ranked Pakistan among top 10 countries most affected by climate change. Droughts, flashfloods, landslides etc are because of this National security threat of climate in Pakistan.

5) Social Fragmentation:

a) Sectarian Attacks:

There is an increased number of sectarian attacks in Pakistan.

b) mob violence. mob violence because of blasphemy cases mainly is also an

internal penetrated security threat in Pakistan.

This concern of social fragmentation was also stated in Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

6 Public Health and Demographic pressure:

a) Public Health:

crises

of public health, like pandemics ~~ice~~ and other diseases Pakistan and Afghanistan are only countries left in the region who have not eradicated polio as per UN.

b) Demographic pressure:

There is

60% youth bulge in Pakistan which is mostly not skilled and ~~un~~ unemployed as exposed in Human Development Index which

ranked Pakistan 148th
out of 163 countries.

Conclusion:

There is no doubt Pakistan plays a strategic role in the region because of its dynamics of security challenges. Its external security threats include tensions with India, border conflicts, proxy threats, and terrorism with insurgency on rise. While its internal security challenges are economic insecurity, political instability, cyber security challenges, climate change and public health with demographic pressure. There is no doubt in seriousness of national security challenges in Pakistan but these can be catered by pragmatic solutions and Pakistan has

potential to cater these challenges.